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ABSTRACT

Operating various programs, the Texas Migrant Council, a multi-service agency, administers assistance to migrants during their stay in their home base state, as well as on their migrant trek. Its Head Start program serves mobile migrant children from the ages of 0 to 5 and gives continuity of services by following them to the northern states during the summer months. The program also seeks to hire staff from the migrant population and develop a strong training program that will aid them in their career development. Nutrition and health services are provided. The Home Start program helps parents teach at home what head start teachers offer in classrooms. Nutrition, health, education and social-psychological services are rendered to the whole family. The Human Development Program initiates new services or adapts existing services and brings them together to meet the families' comprehensive needs. The Council offers a training program for migrant health aides, and a CETA (Comprehensive Employment Training Act) program that enables a migrant to decide on new employment goals and to receive the services that will enable him to fulfill his plan. The Teen Start program provides two teen centers where young people can spend their leisure time engaging in constructive activities to fully develop their individual capacities and alienate them from a potential delinquency environment. A Child Abuse prevention program is also offered. (DS)

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TEXAS MIGRANT COUNCIL, INC.

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TEXAS MIGRANT COUNCIL, INC.

Texas Migrant Council originated in June of 1969 as an experimental mobil day care-head start project, with it's primary objective: "Serving a Selected Migrant Population with Continuous Year Round Services". With this in mind, such services as education, medical, and nutrition began to be rendered to migrant children during their stay in their home base state, Texas and while on the migrant trek, again, "Continuous Year Round Services". And so began what today is, Texas Migrant Council, a Multi Service Agency.

From an experimental project under Colorado Migrant Council in 1969, it was transfered to United Migrants for Opportunity, Inc. in 1970. After going through several financial difficulties, the Office of Child Development, Indian and Migrant Programs Division decided to break away and concluded that a Texas Grantee would be the only means of survival for a much needed project.

Aside from it's head start project, Texas Migrant Council has dealt in such programs as Home Start and the Interstate Human Development Project. Today it is operating such programs as Rural Migrant Health Aide Development Project, CETA Manpower Program, Vista Project, Teen Start, Child Abuse and Neglect, and under it's head start project it operates such components as Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Program (EPSDT), Handicap, Training and Technical Assistance, Supplementary Training and it's Title I ESEA Migrant Four Year Old Program.

Home Start

Home Start was a three year demonstration project developed by the Office of Child Development, Department of Health, Education and Welfare. This program was designed to help the low income migrant families, placing its emphasis on the migrant child who was not reached by Head Start, especially on rural communities. It allowed the parent to teach their children at home what head start teaches in the classroom. Thus, Home Start provided the same comprehensive services as head start does. Such services as nutrition, health, education and social-psychological were rendered not only to the pre-school children but to the entire family as well. Home Start brought forth to the migrant parents a new awareness as to the important and responsible role of being their children's first educator. It provided the parents with the tools by which they could guide their children by educating the parent and the child at the same time.

Human Development

The Interstate Human Development Program was funded through the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Children's Bureau of Research and Demonstration. The project's purpose was to test a strategy of research and services relevant to an ethnic minority. The target population: Migratory Mexican-American Farmworkers from Texas.

The program objectives were to initiate new services where needed by the migrant family or adapt existing services where they failed to be adequately met, providing services that met the needs of more than one family member, in place of the fractured services such as, school programs granted money for school age children only, health services, if there was a local health agency which would be willing to sponsor, pre-school centers, money for pre-school children only, adult services, etc. Very seldom had these services been brought together to meet the comprehensive needs of the

families.

Rural Migrant Health Aide Development Project

The Rural Migrant Health Aide Development Project is funded through the Office of Child Development, Research and Evaluation Division. It's purpose is to develop a training curriculum for migrant health aides. This project is purely a research project and will research the best way to train health aides that can truly serve and relate to the rural migrant community. The prime objective: To develop the training package.

The approach used to develop the migrant health aide training packet is a unique one. To truly gather the feelings of the migrant families themselves this project will survey the migrants to find out what is truly needed by them. Furthermore, a survey of health providers and social agencies will find out the whole scope of migrant health services delivery. The assumption is that by gathering the opinion of both the health provider and the migrant health consumer, a better link of communications can be developed so as to improve the delivery of health services to the migrant families.

The project operates in 4 counties in the Winter Garden Area of Texas: Dimmit, Zavala, Uvalde & Kinney counties. These areas were chosen because of their rural make-up and high population of migrant farmworkers.

Texas Migrant Council believes that through this project it can further it's efforts to truly evolve into a comprehensive migrant service agency serving the total needs of the migrant families.

Manpower CETA 303

The Manpower Comprehensive Employment Training Act funded through the Governor's Office of Migrant Affairs serves mainly migrant and seasonal farmworkers in an attempt to offer them the opportunity to upgrade their education, skills, and training. This program places target group members

in unsubsidized employment which will eventually bring them out of poverty. The Texas Migrant Council Manpower Program uses a client centered approach in all counseling and job placement activities. This new approach allows the participants to grasp more quickly onto the idea that they can assume control over what they "are" or "can do" with their lives.

The Texas Migrant Council staff simply affords the participants the opportunity to explore their own life style so that they might begin to make calculated decisions about their future.

TMC ensures that each enrollee receives the CETA services he needs on an individual, comprehensive basis. By maintaining close personal contact with each enrollee from the time he joins the caseload until permanent job placement, we ensure that an uninterrupted flow of services is provided. The enrollee is not forced to adjust himself to a predetermined rigid program, instead it helps each enrollee to decide what his employment goals are and how he can reach them, and the CETA provides services that enable the enrollee to fulfill his plan.

Vista Project

The purpose of Texas Migrant Council's Vista Project is to supplement various components within it's head start program and the administration. TMC provides orientation to all Vistas on it's objectives, job responsibilities, and insight on the unique problems migrants face.

In order to increase the low level of services, TMC's Vista nurses are trained to deliver such services as immunizations, physicals, etc. to all TMC centers. Personal contact with existing agencies is encouraged in order for better delivery of services to TMC head start children.

Vista social workers act as a liason between social service agencies, the migrant and TMC head start centers. They coordinate efforts with all agencies to better meet the needs of the migrant worker. Other respon-

sibilities include stimulating parent involvement in the migrant community by providing arrangements for parent meetings or workshops to benefit migrant parents and also providing the necessary outreach for the head start centers.

Special education Vistas's are trained to be self reliable in meeting the needs of the handicap, provide direct service to the handicap child and to coordinate efforts, again, with existing agencies serving the handicapped. All of the above is accomplished in order to create a more suitable environment for the handicapped child to develop his potentialities to help him or her overcome their handicap.

Teen Start

Teen Start provides a more enriched environment in the identified target areas for the teenage youths to spend their leisure time engaging in constructive activities to fully develop their own individual capacities and therefore, alienate from a potential juvenile delinquency environment. The project's personnel, mainly locally recruited vista volunteers, set-up, coordinate, and supervise two teen start centers and the activities undertaken at the center. They also initiated a job placement and development project to secure employment for the economically disadvantaged youths.

By doing so Teen Start will discourage juvenile delinquency, drug usage, lack of interest in higher education, unemployment and crime within the teenage group between the ages of 13 to 20.

Child Abuse

In a lifestyle full of changes, abruptions, uncertainty, and discrimination, the rural Mexican-American migrant farmworker finds himself in an environment potentially capable of breeding child abuse and neglect. It is through Texas Migrant Council's Child Abuse and Neglect Program by which the above conditions are trying to be eliminated to wipe out child

abuse and neglect.

The principal objectives of this project are:

Parentive Education - Early education of the prospective parents is very important in order to provide migrant parents-to-be with invaluable information which will lead to better prepared parents that will understand their role in relating to their children.

Identification and Intervention is a more immediate need of those families having problems in the realm of child abuse and neglect. The process of identification must be handled with the utmost objectivity and sensitivity. TMC proposes to bridge the gap between the Services, Department of Public Welfare, treatment and overall attainment of success in intervening with the troubled family.

Prevention - It is hoped that through education of the migrant parents and families, prevention of child abuse and neglect, which normally goes unreported to the State, will be reported to this project, being that TMC is well known for helping the migrant family with all it's problems. We feel that by approaching the State, on occasions where a child has a need for a type of state intervention, it will create an atmosphere of mutuality in a common cause. The advantage of this project intervening as a first time of intervention is that much more sincerity can be achieved from client families.

The involvement of the extended family in all levels of this project concerns can produce a much more aware and effective course of action in all the objectives of this project. The focal point to problem-solving will be evident in all the phases of the project. This involvement takes form in the intervention in child abuse cases to the actual education in the ills of the serious concern. The whole concept of the project aims will be the extensive use of the extended family support structure in any type of crisis.

An objective compiling of evidence statistics of child abuse and neglect cases will be undertaken. Careful consideration of causes, intensity and frequency levels will be minimized.

This project is unique in it's approach to the problem of child abuse and neglect. The uniqueness is the interpretation of the child abuse and neglect and in the use of the extended family concept.

Head Start

Striving to meet the many needs of the migrant child poses a challenging task to many educators working with such a child.

On November 11, 1971, the Texas Migrant Council came into existence and took that responsibility. The first step was to seek out a suitable curriculum that could be adjusted to the migrant child's needs, the curriculum contained the basic skills in early childhood education. It provided the teacher with basic skills in working with the child. The staff received extensive pre and in-service training. Both cognitive and perceptive skills are introduced to the child through a series of lessons such as auditory, visual, idea and concept, and language. As of November 1, 1972 TMC extended it's program to include a five year old program.

One of the primary objectives of the educational program in head start is to provide the migrant child with a well balanced program cognitively and socially, to develop the child to it's fullest potential and prepare him for his endeavors in public school and to make him culturally aware of his endeavors in public school and to make him culturally aware of his background and heritage through cultural activities which are provided by the Early Childhood Development Program.

As far as providing an effective teaching staff, Texas Migrant Council provides extensive training in the areas of childhood education. Employees

on their return to their homebase in Texas are allowed to enroll in school and attend night classes through the TMC supplementary training. Along with the college courses TMC provides in-service training with trainer visitations to the center on a scheduled year round basis.

In dealing with the supplementary training this leads us into another subject of interest, and that is the Career Development Committee (CDC). The CDC Committee plans, develops, monitors, and evaluates the Career Development Program for the Head Start Program.

The following are the broad goals of Texas Migrant Council's Head Start Program:

To serve mobil migrant children from the ages of 0-5 from their homebase in Texas and give them the continuity of services in the user states by following them to the northern states during the summer months.

To use the bilingual-bicultural curriculum so that the child gets the extra scholastic help that he or she so much needs as they go through grade school.

To adjust to the duration of a program day to the hours of the migrant working day.

To deliver not only services to the migrant family, but also having them share those services by hiring staff from the migrant population.

To develop a strong training program that will serve as a career development for the staff which will consist of mostly untrained migrant men and women and turn them into competent para-professionals.

Perform not only follow through service in education but also in nutrition and health.

To involve the parents in the aspect of education, in caring of their children and in parental involvement as specified by OEO instructions.

Improving the child's health.

Helping the child's emotional and social development by encouraging

self-confidence, self-expression, self-discipline and curiosity.

Improving and expanding the child's ability to think, reason, and speak clearly.

Helping children to get wider and more varied experiences which will broaden their horizons, increase their ease of conversation and to improve their understanding of the world in which they live.

Giving the child frequent chances to succeed. Such chances may thus erase patterns of frustration and failure and especially the fear of failure.

Developing a climate of confidence for the child which will make him want to learn.

Increasing the child's ability to get along with others in his family and at the same time, helping the family to understand him and his problems--thus strengthening family ties.

Developing in the child and his family a responsible attitude towards society and fostering feelings of belonging to the community.

Planning activities which allow groups from every social, ethnic and economic level in a community to join together with the poor in solving problems.

Offering a chance for the child to meet and see teachers, policemen, health and welfare officers, all figures of authority in situations which will bring respect and not fear.

Giving the child a chance to meet with older children, teenagers, and adults who will serve as "models" in manners, behavior, and speech.

Helping both the child and his family to a greater confidence, self-respect and dignity.

Aside from H.E.W. funds, Texas Migrant Council also receives \$100,000 from the State Office of Early Childhood Development to use as a donor share for three providers. Texas Migrant Council also receives USDA reimbursement in the States of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

Other monies enhancing head start services are such as CDA (Child Development Associates), designed to enable employees to enroll in college to attend night classes providing the migrant child with an effective teaching staff in the field of early childhood development.

The training and technical assistance component is geared to training staff in all the areas as they apply to the performance standards. Staff members receive a number of training hours which results in complete awareness, rapid career progression and compliance, which will once again, better serve the migrant child.

The Mini Head Start program funded partially through Title VII provides a continuing bilingual bicultural program to the migrant children of Grulla, Texas granting them a continuity of services by following them to various locations in the State of Washington, where Grulla families mostly migrate, up until the time in which the child enters grade school.

Texas Migrant Council also receives \$120,000 from the State Texas Education Agency to operate a migrant four year old program, where the local independent school districts have failed to do so. The Title I ESEA Migrant Four Year Old Program operates in the locations of Eagle Pass, Laredo and Brownsville, Texas.

It is through the effectiveness of all the different programs and components that Texas Migrant Council operates, for which it has grown to what today is a Multi Service Agency.